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ART. 11. NOTES ON SOME BIRDS FROM CUBA AND THE ISLE OF PINES

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At the time that Todd published his important paper on the birds of the Isle of Pines (1916), Carnegie Museum had no bird specimens from the mainland of Cuba, and Todd was forced to rely on borrowed comparative material, often of limited extent. This lack was not remedied until relatively recently, when Carnegie Museum received as part of an exchange with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History a small but useful collection of Cuban birds made in 1941 by W. H. Corning, R. J. Kula, and P. N. Moulthrop. In the course of cataloguing and arranging this collection, comparisons of Cuban and Isle of Pines series of several species revealed variations not fully in accordance with current literature. The Carnegie Museum material of three such species was therefore supplemented by the excellent specimens collected by George E. Watson, 3rd, now in the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University (Ripley and Watson, 1956). After the present paper was essentially completed, additional material of *Amazona leucocephala* and *Tyrannus caudifasciatus* was examined at the American Museum of Natural History, New York. I am indebted to Dr. Dean Amadon of the latter institution, and to Mr. Watson and Dr. Philip S. Humphrey of the Peabody Museum, for the use of their respective specimens.

Amazona leucocephala

Todd's description (1916, p. 228-229) of the Isle of Pines subspecies *palmarum* lists the 24 specimens then on hand from that island, but does not mention the extent of his comparative material from Cuba. Todd's manuscript notes reveal that he had but four Cuban specimens, all from the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. After the rejection of *palmarum* by Peters (1928, p. 342), Todd's notes indicate that he examined seven additional Cuban specimens and was then inclined to follow Peters in synonymizing *palmarum* with *leucocephala*.

Barbour (1923, p. 82) showed that parrots from western Cuba were indistinguishable from Isle of Pines *palmarum*, a pattern of geographic variation known in several other species as pointed out by Todd (1916, p. 162). Although Barbour stated that "the living bird . . . which was the basis of Linné's description" probably came from Havana, he inferentially restricted the type locality of *leucocephala* to eastern Cuba, a restriction accepted by Peters (1928, p. 342, and 1937, p. 217). However, a most unfortunate *lapsus* in Peters's 1928 paper gives the citation from Barbour as claiming that specimens from eastern and central Cuba are identical with those of the Isle of Pines. This, of course, would (if true) negate any correlation between color and geography in *Amazona leucocephala*.

Comparison of a total of 26 Isle of Pines specimens with 13 from the mainland of Cuba indicates that Barbour was essentially correct in his division of *Amazona leucocephala*, except that I would place birds from central Cuba (Las Villas eastward) with the nominate race. Two specimens from Pinar del Rio (Peabody Museum) closely resemble the Isle of Pines series except that the abdominal patch is slightly paler. Of the remaining Cuban specimens,

two from Guantánamo approach *palmarum* in the extent of the abdominal patch, but the two series would certainly be considered separable by most current subspecific standards. The size and depth of color of the abdominal patch (larger and darker in *palmarum*) is the best character; the deeper throat color attributed by Todd to *palmarum* seems also to be valid but difficult to assess in worn birds. The darker green supposedly typical of Isle of Pines birds is only an average character; the darkest green individuals are *palmarum* and the palest *leucocephala*, but there is more overlap than in the other characters mentioned. In summary, I advocate the reinstatement of *Amazona leucocephala palmarum* Todd for the birds of western Cuba and the Isle of Pines.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. *A. I. leucocephala*: Oriente, 6; Las Villas, 4; "Cuba", 1. *A. I. palmarum*: Isle of Pines, 26; Pinar del Rio, 2.

Glaucidium siju

Study of our series of 15 specimens from the Isle of Pines and four from Cuba had already suggested to me that the Isle of Pines race *vittatum* Ridgway was worthy of reinstatement when I found that Ripley and Watson (1956, p. 4) had come to the same conclusion based on their series of eight and seven respectively. In addition to the characters mentioned by Ridgway (1914, p. 805-806), it may be noted that the under tail coverts of nominate *siju* are immaculate white or nearly so, whereas those of *vittatum* bear distinct longitudinal streaks. Bond (1957, p. 12) has accepted the findings of Ripley and Watson on the validity of *G. s. vittatum*.

Gymnolaux lawrencii

Our series consists of the two Isle of Pines specimens mentioned by Todd (1916, p. 234) plus two from Oriente and one from Las Villas. On the basis of this small series I would have had no hesitation in upholding the validity of Bangs's race *exsul*, as the two Isle of Pines specimens are strikingly less rufescent and more heavily spotted with white on the dorsum. I defer, however, to the superior series available to Ripley and Watson (1956, p. 4). Bond (1957, p. 12) has also accepted the findings of the latter authors with regard to the present species, and synonymizes *exsul* and *lawrencii*.

Tyrannus caudifasciatus

I tentatively follow those recent authors who have merged "*Tolmarchus*" with *Tyrannus*, although there are several qualitative differences which set the species *caudifasciatus* apart from other members of *Tyrannus*. In addition to those characters usually cited (see Meise, 1949, p. 71-75), the color pattern exhibited by the rufescent extreme, *T. c. gabbii* of Hispaniola, is without counterpart in other species of *Tyrannus* examined.

A rather frequent phenomenon in the avifauna of the West Indies is the existence of a series of geographically replacing populations so distinct from one another that they were not only originally described as full species (as, of course, were many other forms now ranked as subspecies), but would still be so considered by a more conservative school of taxonomy than now dominates the literature. In some groups it is possible to combine populations showing certain attributes in common into rather arbitrary "species", although all populations are allopatric; Bond (1956, p. 166, footnote) has suggested this

treatment for the tanager genus *Spindalis*, on the basis of coloration of females. It may prove convenient so to subdivide *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*, as it is difficult or impossible within the present system of trinomial nomenclature to consider all of the allopatric populations conspecific and yet indicate the obvious fact that some of these populations are more closely related to one another than to the rest. One possibility would be to restrict the specific name *caudifasciatus* to those forms with patterned rectrices, and unite under the name *T. taylori* the forms (*taylori* and *gabbii*) with rectrices unpatterned. Differences between island populations of these two species would then more closely approximate differences between continental populations currently recognized as subspecies. The population of *Tyrannus caudifasciatus* on the Isle of Pines, for instance, is clearly derived from the Cuban race, and differs from the latter at quite a different level from that of the Hispaniolan population. Although the differences between Cuban and Isle of Pines birds are not striking, they are nevertheless consistent and worthy of recognition at the conventional subspecific level, as follows:

Tyrannus caudifasciatus flavescens, subsp. nov.

Type: Carnegie Museum no. 39646, adult male; Los Indios, Isle of Pines; collected October 16, 1912, by G. A. Link, Sr. (original no. 191).

Characters: Similar to *T. c. caudifasciatus* of the mainland of Cuba, but under tail coverts, under wing coverts, and axillars strongly washed with yellow; light area at base of tail averaging more yellow. In very fresh plumage, the gray of the dorsum has a more greenish wash than in *caudifasciatus*, but this is quickly lost by wear. Todd (1916, p. 249) has rightly emphasized the color changes that wear and fading bring about; in worn Isle of Pines specimens the color of the under tail coverts may fade nearly or wholly to white, but the yellow underwing area is usually diagnostic in such birds. The increased yellow of *flavescens* is an approach to the condition of *bahamensis*, but Isle of Pines birds lack the yellowish flanks of that race. In wing length there is only a minute average difference, but the large extremes are Cuban specimens (δ 112 mm. vs. 110 for Isle of Pines specimens; f 108 vs. 105). Tail length appears to be somewhat more significant. In 15 Cuban males, tail length ranges from 85 to 93 mm., while 11 Isle of Pines males range from 83 to 89 mm., with one exceptional specimen measuring 94 mm. Figures for tail length of females: Cuba (8): 83-91; Isle of Pines (6): 81-87.

Range: Isle of Pines, Greater Antilles. No geographic variation was noted within the Cuban series examined.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED: *T. c. caudifasciatus*: Cuba various localities, 46.

T. c. flavescens: Isle of Pines, various localities, 18.

Mimocichla plumbea

This species exhibits an interesting geographic pattern of variation in Cuba and the Isle of Pines which may be considered as incipient subspeciation. Todd (1916, p. 254) commented on the variation in color of underparts of our Isle of Pines series, but made no comparisons with Cuban specimens. Examination of the combined Carnegie and Peabody Museum series indicates there is a decided tendency for Isle of Pines birds to have a paler rufous abdominal patch, often restricted in extent; also, the light area on the inner web of the primaries averages paler, more sharply contrasting, and broader in

Isle of Pines specimens, when compared with specimens of *M. p. rubripes* from central and western Cuba. Curiously, intermediacy in color of underparts is uncommon; when Cuban and Isle of Pines series are laid out, certain specimens immediately stand out as being the "wrong" color for their locality. Because of this phenomenon, too many specimens would be unidentifiable without verification of label locality to warrant subspecific separation of the Isle of Pines birds from *rubripes*, but the trend toward differentiation seems to be worthy of mention.

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